

HIS MASTERPIECE

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ÉMILE ZOLA

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His Masterpiece by Émile Zola,
first published 1885 in the periodical *Gil Blas*.

Claude Lantier is an ambitious artist in the cultural hotpot of 19th century Paris. He becomes obsessed with the development of a new milieu, mixing art with the science and literature of the era, and begins to attract an excited following. His work, however, fails to ignite or develop beyond short sketches, his muse pulling him constantly in new directions. Failing to generate wider support, the group's members learn to compromise to find success, with the exception of Claude and Sandoz.

With the passage of time and his contemporaries' successful moves into society and more mainstream areas, Claude persists with his dreams of producing a great masterpiece, but unable to bring forth this breakthrough work, his personal life begins to unravel.

His Masterpiece is a semi-autobiographical work by Émile Zola. This tragic tale of artistic passions and disappointment, of unfulfilled potential and overextended ambition. Ultimately, it is Sandoz who becomes the movements great success, learning the value of his craft, whilst Claude retreats from reality and those who love him.



Émile Zola,
circa 1865.

His Masterpiece/Émile Zola from catalog

Read by Lisa Reichert. Total running time: 15:44:14

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